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	DOEE-00	DOTE-00	SRPP-00	DS-00	EB-01	FAAE-00	FBIE-00
	IMMC-01	TEDE-00	INR-00	INSE-00	JUSE-00	L-01	ADS-00
	M-00	NEA-01	NRCE-00	NSAE-00	NSCE-00	OCS-03	OIS-01
	PA-02	PM-00	PRS-01	P-00	SSO-00	SS-00	TRSE-00
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R 052026Z DEC 95
FM AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9194
INFO AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO
AMEMBASSY MONTEVIDEO
USCINCSO QUARRY HEIGHTS PM//SCCC//
AMEMBASSY LA PAZ
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
AMEMBASSY MEXICO
AMEMBASSY BRASILIA
AMEMBASSY ASUNCION

UNCLAS SECTION 01 OF 03 BUENOS AIRES 007600

S/CT FOR REAP/COLLINS, ARA/BSC FOR JACK DEASY

E.O. 12958: N/A
TAGS: PTER, AR
SUBJECT: ARGENTINA: 1995 ANNUAL TERRORISM REPORT
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REF: STATE 245276

1. FOLLOWING IS POST'S RESPONSE TO REFTEL.

A) PROSECUTIONS

THE ARGENTINE GOVERNMENT CONTINUED ITS INVESTIGATION OF THE JULY 18, 1994, BOMBING OF THE ARGENTINE JEWISH MUTUAL ASSOCIATION (AMIA) THROUGHOUT 1995. IN SEPTEMBER, INVESTIGATING JUDGE JUAN JOSE GALEANO FILED ADDITIONAL CHARGES AGAINST DETAINED SUSPECT CARLOS TELLELDIN, ACCUSING HIM OF CRIMINAL CONSPIRACY RELATING TO THE STOLEN-CAR RING WHICH ALLEGEDLY PROVIDED THE VAN USED IN THE ATTACK ON AMIA. THE GOVERNMENT ALSO BRIEFLY DETAINED SEVEN OF TELLELDIN'S CO-CONSPIRATORS, BUT NONE WERE CHARGED SPECIFICALLY IN THE AMIA CASE. IN DECEMBER, JUDGE GALEANO ORDERED THE DETENTION OF NINE ARMY NONCOMMISSIONED OFFICERS AND FOUR CIVILIAN ARMY PERSONNEL IN CONNECTION WITH ILLEGAL SALES OF WEAPONS AND EXPLOSIVES. THE JUDGE IS SEEKING TO DETERMINE WHETHER THESE INDIVIDUALS PROVIDED THE EXPLOSIVES USED IN THE ATTACK ON AMIA. ALSO, IN JULY 1995 THE ARGENTINE GOVERNMENT EXTRADITED FROM PARAGUAY SEVEN INDIVIDUALS (SEE SECTION B, BELOW) THOUGHT TO HAVE INFORMATION ON THE AMIA CASE, BUT THEY WERE RELEASED SHORTLY AFTER BEING INTERVIEWED BECAUSE THE GOVERNMENT COULD NOT PRODUCE EVIDENCE IMPLICATING THEM.

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THE GOVERNMENT ALSO CONTINUED ITS INVESTIGATION INTO THE MARCH 17, 1992, BOMBING OF THE ISRAELI EMBASSY IN BUENOS AIRES BUT FAILED TO DEVELOP ANY NEW LEADS. JEWISH COMMUNITY LEADERS, GIVING TESTIMONY BEFORE THE ARGENTINE CONGRESS, REFERRED TO THE INVESTIGATION AS "FOSSILIZED" AND LATER JOINED WITH THE ISRAELI AMBASSADOR IN BUENOS AIRES IN CALLING FOR THE REPLACEMENT OF THE INVESTIGATING JUDGE IN THE CASE. IN DECEMBER, THE 82-YEAR OLD JUDGE, RICARDO LEVENE,

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ANNOUNCED HIS RETIREMENT FROM THE SUPREME COURT,
PERMITTING THE APPOINTMENT OF ANOTHER JUDGE TO
INVESTIGATE THE ISRAELI EMBASSY BOMBING.

B) EXTRADITIONS

AFTER MONTHS OF DELAY ON APPEALS IN PARAGUAY, FIVE
BRAZILIANS AND TWO LEBANESE NATIONALS (THE ASUNCION
SEVEN), BELIEVED BY ARGENTINE AUTHORITIES TO HAVE BEEN
INVOLVED IN OR TO HAVE INFORMATION ON THE ISRAELI
EMBASSY AND AMIA BOMBINGS, WERE EXTRADITED TO
ARGENTINA ON JULY 23, 1995. JUDGE ROBERTO MARQUEVICH,
WHO INITIATED THE EXTRADITION PROCEEDINGS,
INTERROGATED THE SEVEN CONCERNING THEIR LINKS TO
ALLEGED BLACK MARKET ARMS DEALER ALEJANDRO SUCKSDORF
AND POSSIBLE CRIMINAL ACTIVITIES WHILE THEY WERE IN
ARGENTINA, BUT MARQUEVICH WAS UNABLE TO DEVELOP
SUFFICIENT EVIDENCE TO KEEP THEM IN CUSTODY. ALL
SEVEN WERE RELEASED ON JULY 27 AND SUBSEQUENTLY
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DEPORTED.

ALTHOUGH NOT FORMALLY AN EXTRADITION, ARGENTINA TOOK
INTO CUSTODY -- AFTER HE WAS EXPELLED FROM MEXICO BY
MIGRATION AUTHORITIES -- ENRIQUE GORRIARAN MERLO, A
TERRORIST ACCUSED OF THE DEADLY ATTACK ON THE LA
TABLADA MILITARY REGIMENT IN 1989. GORRIARIAN MERLO
HAS ALSO CLAIMED RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE ASSASSINATION
IN PARAGUAY OF FORMER NICARAGUAN PRESIDENT ANASTASIO
SOMOZA. GORRIARAN MERLO HAD EVADED CAPTURE SINCE THE
1970S WHEN HE LED A LEFTIST INSURGENCY, FLEEING AT
VARIOUS TIMES TO URUGUAY, PARAGUAY, NICARAGUA, CUBA,
AND MEXICO. HE IS FACING LIFE IMPRISONMENT IF
CONVICTED ON THE CHARGES FILED. THE COURT HAS ORDERED
GORRIARIAN MERLO HELD IN PREVENTATIVE DETENTION UNTIL
HIS TRIAL IS COMPLETED.

C) IMPEDIMENTS

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VARIOUS AGENCIES. CORRUPTION REMAINS A SERIOUS PROBLEM, PARTICULARLY WITHIN PROVINCIAL POLICE FORCES. EVEN FEDERAL POLICE, WHO HAVE JURISDICTION IN THE FEDERAL CAPITAL WHERE THE 1992 AND 1994 BOMBINGS OCCURRED, LACK ADEQUATE TRAINING AND EQUIPMENT FOR COMPLEX INVESTIGATIONS SUCH AS THOSE PRESENT IN TERRORIST ATTACKS.

IN ADDITION, THE JUDICIARY REMAINS HAMSTRUNG BY AN ARCHAIC STRUCTURE AND A MASSIVE CASE BACKLOG. AMIA INVESTIGATING JUDGE GALEANO HAS HAD MIXED RESULTS IN OVERCOMING THESE OBSTACLES TO CREATE MOMENTUM TOWARD SOLVING THE CASE. SOME COMMUNITY LEADERS CLAIM THAT THE POLICE MAINTAIN AN ATTITUDE OF INDIFFERENCE TOWARD THE AMIA AND ISRAELI EMBASSY BOMBINGS AND HAVE FAILED TO MAKE HEADWAY IN THE INVESTIGATIONS BECAUSE OF THINLY VEILED ANTISEMITISM. DURING 1995, A POLICEMAN FROM THE PROVINCES WAS DISCIPLINED FOR WEARING A HELMET WITH A SWASTICA, BUT NO EVIDENCE HAS BEEN PRESENTED SUPPORTING THE ALLEGATION THAT ANTISEMITISM IS WIDESPREAD IN ARGENTINE POLICE OR HAS INFLUENCED THE 1992 AND 1994 BOMBING INVESTIGATIONS. THE GOVERNMENT CONTINUES TO INSIST, WITH GREATER CREDIBILITY, THAT ARGENTINA HAS BEEN THE VICTIM OF SOPHISTICATED INTERNATIONAL TERRORISM.

D) RESPONSES OTHER THAN PROSECUTION

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ARGENTINA HAS TAKEN STEPS TO STRENGTHEN ITS LAWS AND
BOLSTER ITS FIGHT AGAINST INTERNATIONAL TERRORISM. IN
1995, LEGISLATIVE BILLS PROPOSING GREATER POLICE
POWERS -- SUCH AS THE USE OF PAID AND UNPAID
INFORMANTS, MAKING ADMISSIBLE THE TESTIMONY OF
COOPERATIVE CO-CONSPIRATORS, AND WITNESS PROTECTION
PROGRAMS -- WERE SPONSORED BY ARGENTINE CONGRESSMEN OF
BOTH THE OPPOSITION AND RULING PARTIES. THE ARGENTINE
CONGRESS ALSO IS CONSIDERING LEGISLATION THAT WOULD
EXPAND ITS ABILITY TO OFFER REWARDS FOR INFORMATION ON
TERRORIST GROUPS AND HAS HELD HEARINGS TO SOLICIT
CITIZEN INPUT ON THESE ISSUES. IT HAS SOUGHT U.S.
GOVERNMENT ADVICE ON HOW BEST TO REFORM CURRENT
STATUTES ON TERRORISM.

E) MAJOR COUNTERTERRORISM EFFORTS

THE GOVERNMENT HAS TAKEN A LEADING ROLE IN REGIONAL
COOPERATION AGAINST INTERNATIONAL TERRORISM. ON
AUGUST 1 AND 2, 1995, ARGENTINA HOSTED A REGIONAL
TERRORISM CONFERENCE THAT INCLUDED ITS SOUTHERN CONE
NEIGHBORS -- BRAZIL, CHILE, PARAGUAY, AND URUGUAY --
AS WELL AS THE UNITED STATES AND CANADA. PARTICIPANTS
AT THE CONFERENCE HAILED ITS SUCCESS IN BRINGING
INDIVIDUALS FROM COUNTRY DELEGATIONS INTO CLOSER
COOPERATION. THE MEETING ALSO ADVANCED REGIONAL
INTEREST IN THE FORTHCOMING HEMISPHERIC TERRORISM
CONFERENCE IN LIMA, A FOLLOW UP ON THE TERRORISM
ACTION ITEM FROM THE SUMMIT OF THE AMERICAS IN

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DECEMBER 1994. THE GOVERNMENT ALSO IS PUSHING FOR
GREATER COOPERATION WITH BRAZIL AND PARAGUAY TO
IMPROVE BORDER CONTROLS IN THE AREA WHERE THEIR THREE
FRONTIERS MEET, THE SO-CALLED "TRI-BORDER" REGION.

F) HOST GOVERNMENT SUPPORT FOR TERRORISM

NONE.

G) SUPPORT FOR TERRORIST-SUPPORTING COUNTRIES

NONE.

H) HOST GOVERNMENT'S ATTITUDE TOWARD TERRORISM

ARGENTINA REMAINS FIRMLY COMMITTED TO COMBATTING
INTERNATIONAL AND DOMESTIC TERRORISM. STEPS BEING
ADOPTED TO GRANT POLICE AND THE COURTS GREATER

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LATTITUDE TO INVESTIGATE TERRORIST GROUPS -- VERY
SENSITIVE POLITICALLY BECAUSE OF PAST ABUSES DURING THE
MILITARY DICTATORSHIP -- ARE INDICATORS OF THE
GOVERNMENT'S RESOLVE IN THE COUNTERTERRORISM ARENA.

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